

The Times-Dispatch.

Published Daily and Weekly

At No. 4 North Tenth Street, Richmond, Va. Entered January 27, 1903, at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

The DAILY TIMES-DISPATCH is sold at 2 cents a copy.
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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1908.

Individual Rights.

Harper's Weekly is publishing a series of articles by John Keith, entitled "Strangle-Hold of Labor," in which the writer undertakes to show the influence of organized labor upon human affairs. There are four of these articles. The first one, printed November 28th, considered the effects of strikes in the building trades of various cities, especially in New York, resulting in increased rent; the second, published a week later, dealt with the problem of transportation, showing what loss and misery it is possible for labor unions to bring on the whole country by controlling the means of distribution; the third article, in the current issue, is concerned with the influence of organized labor on the cost of living and the price of food.

"The facts, which Mr. Keith sets forth in this article," says the editor, "are not novel, nor obscure."

"Most of them will be recognized as heretofore published in the newspapers. But it is highly instructive to have them gathered and put together as he has done it. The labor unions have, indeed, got a strangle-hold on the people of this country. It behooves every citizen and voter to consider carefully what they have done, what they are doing, and what they will do if they can, and to ask himself what are the proper limits of their powers, and by what processes they are to be restrained within those limits. The unions include altogether only a comparatively small fraction of our population, but they occupy a position of such strength and advantage, that they are able in an extraordinary degree to impose their will on the whole country."

Mr. Keith says in the conclusion of his last article that "it is a question how long the voters of our cities and of the country at large will tolerate these raids upon their pockets, and upon their rights to live without the coercion and tyranny of a few unscrupulous leaders of organized labor." The fact is the voters have very little to do with it. The law cannot compel men to work when they do not want to. The law cannot prevent strikes. The law cannot prevent men from organizing themselves into labor unions, and standing together for their own protection. It is the right of laboring men to organize; it is their right to set a price upon their labor; it is their right to refuse to work for a reduced scale of wages, or upon any terms that all such organizations will be responsible in any craft can succeed in organizing all the members of their craft, they will be able to make their own terms, and men may employ them or not, as they please. Every man has an inalienable right to his own labor, and he may dispose of it or not dispose of it as he chooses. The law cannot interfere.

The only thing the law can do is to prohibit the labor unions from interfering with the rights of others. The members of a union may make rules for themselves, but not for outside laborers. They may prevent their own men from working upon terms which do not suit them, but they may not prevent outsiders from doing so. They may refuse to work for an individual or a corporation upon terms which do not suit them, but they may not, in law, prevent such individual or corporation from employing non-union men, upon terms that they may agree mutually upon.

Moreover, we believe that the time will come when labor unions will be held responsible in law for the unlawful acts of their members. That principle has been declared in England, in the Taff-Vale decision, and recently a similar decision was rendered by Judge Holcomb, of Chicago. The Franklin Typographical Union declared a strike on September 27th, and after various acts of violence, the court, on October 10th, granted an injunction against the union, restraining its employees from interfering with those who had taken their places. Evidence was produced to show that the union members had violated the contract, whereupon the court imposed a fine of one thousand dollars, the specific offense being contempt of court. It is true this labor union was incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois, but whether incorporated or not, the time will come, we believe, when all such organizations will be responsible in law for any unlawful acts which they may commit.

In our government, the right of the individual must be upheld in law and not protected by the courts, and those who trespass, whether they be individuals or an organization of individuals, must be and will be restrained by law, otherwise the very foundation stone of our government will have been removed, and the structure will fall.

Party Factions.

The Richmond News Leader deplores the fact that there are factions in the Democratic party of Virginia. But how

could it be otherwise, seeing that there is only one party in Virginia? If there were a formidable opposition party, if the Republican party were a serious competitor, Democrats would get together soon enough and fight the common foe. But as there is but one party, as the Democrats have everything in their own hands, it is natural and inevitable that there should be two parties within the organization.

Competition in politics is as necessary as it is in the business world, and as there is no competition between Democrats and Republicans, it must exist, to a greater or less degree within the ranks of Democracy. Nor need we fret about it, if the contending factions will fight fairly and keep the principles and interests of Democracy always in view.

The Maryland Plan.

Attorney-General W. S. Bryan has drafted a proposed amendment to the Constitution of Maryland, to regulate the suffrage and exclude the undesirable negro vote. The main clause provides that before any person shall be entitled to vote, he shall be able to read and write on dictation any section of the Constitution of Maryland, or he shall have paid for the two preceding years State and county or city taxes amounting to at least \$.... for each year, unless he was entitled to vote in one of the States of the United States on January 1, 1867, or at some time prior thereto, or unless he is a legitimate lineal descendant of some person who was entitled to vote in one of the States of the United States on January 1, 1867, or at some time prior thereto. No property or educational qualification will be required of persons entitled to vote in one of the States of the United States prior to January, 1867, or of any lineal descendants of such persons.

Mr. Bryan says the "grandfather" clause was modeled after the North Carolina plan, but he eliminated the permanent registration list because he thinks it would lead to abuse, and he left out the poll tax feature because the Maryland Declaration of Rights forbids it and the people years ago voted down an amendment to the Constitution, which would have permitted a poll tax to be laid. He thinks that under this clause all shiftless negroes will be excluded, while those who are thrifty enough to have acquired property will be admitted to the suffrage. The property qualification clause will also include certain foreign-born, who are property owners, but who cannot read and write English correctly. In conclusion he argues that the suffrage should be restricted no further than is necessary to secure orderly, intelligent and economical government. "Every class of citizens," says he, "should be permitted to vote whom the public interest does not require to be deprived of that privilege."

This is a good principle, and if adhered to in the constitutional amendment that Maryland proposes to adopt, there can be no just complaint on the part of any. We have adopted that principle in Virginia, and our plan is operating well, except that many registered voters have failed to qualify by propounding the poll tax.

Australia's Drought.

Australia is finding out that legislation is not a sure means to gain prosperity, but that riches are of God. It was believed by the socialists and claimed by the demagogues that the extensive schemes of State built railroads undertaken by Australia would inevitably result in great prosperity, and so it seemed for a while. Then came the drought, and during the last two years in the State of Victoria the number of births has been less by 22,000 than the number of able-bodied men and women who have left the country. The same equal condition exists in most of the other States that form Australia, and at present there is nothing that can be done to change this condition except to pray for rain.

Commenting on this condition, the Chicago Tribune says:

"Victoria has an area of 88,000 square miles, and yet, owing largely to climatic conditions, three-fifths of the population live in towns. In 1901 only 100,000 bread-winners were occupied in agriculture and grazing, while 10,000 followed industrial pursuits. This is an extraordinary state of things in a new country, though it does not surprise one in England or Belgium. If Victoria had a better rainfall the town population would be more predominant than it has been in the fertile United States."

A country whose manufacturing industries are few and feeble, while its farmers and graziers are likely to be ruined by drought once in every ten years, cannot reasonably hope to be one of the great powers of the earth, no matter how extensive its area may be. It must be content with a slow growth and be resigned to inevitable setbacks.

Teddy, the Dangerous.

The New York Tribune says President Roosevelt's rashness has come to be a sort of proverb—"one of those popular attributes which persist quite independent of any basis or fact." "The President, on any particular occasion, may be rash, or he may not," proceeds our contemporary. "It makes no difference. Before he entered the White House his restless energy had attracted attention, and a large number of people assumed as a matter of course that everything he did would be impetuous. So when anything happens in the conduct of the government every critic of the policy adopted shouts that it is another piece of the President's rashness, though it may be the essence of conservatism." The Tribune is a friend and champion of President Roosevelt, but Mr. Roosevelt may well exclaim: "Save me from my friend!" Mr. Roosevelt's rashness has, indeed, become a national proverb. He has been rash and impetuous so often that he is

always under suspicion. He may be conservative in a given situation, but the people do not trust him. Mr. Roosevelt is in the unfortunate attitude of the chronic liar. The man who has the reputation of being a liar does not get the credit for truth even when he tells it.

President Roosevelt is uncertain. He may be conservative now and then, but there is no knowing what moment he may become rash. He is a man of impulses. His impulses are usually generous, but they are also the less impulses, and it is hard to know what peculiar turn they will take. It is for this reason that the conservative men of the country, whether they be Democrats or Republicans; whether they be financiers or laboring men, or what not, are afraid of President Roosevelt. We believe that he is going to be nominated, although there is strong opposition to him in his own party, but if the Democrats will but nominate a man in whom the country at large has entire confidence, and put that man on a safe, conservative platform, they will have a chance to win.

It seems to us that in view of this there ought to be sense enough and loyalty enough in the Democratic party to bring all contending factions together and unite them heartily in the struggle which is to come off next year.

Thirteen Columns.

The Maryland Daughters of the Confederacy are still insistent that in the Jefferson Davis monument there shall be a column representing Maryland, in addition to the thirteen columns, standing for the States that had members in the Confederate Senate and House. These Daughters argue that Maryland's devotion to the Confederate cause entitles it to this distinction, and that but for the heavy hand of the Federal military forces which was laid upon the State, it would have succeeded. As it was, it is claimed that Maryland furnished 15,000 troops to the Confederate army.

On the other hand, letters have appeared in several papers in the South, arguing that there should be but eleven columns on the monument; that Kentucky and Missouri should be omitted.

These questions have been discussed, at great length, time and again, and it is unlikely that any new light can be thrown upon the subject now.

The design, as proposed by Mr. Noland, has thirteen columns, representing the eleven Confederate States proper, and Missouri and Kentucky, which were represented in the Confederate Congress. The thirteen columns give fourteen spaces and the present design of the Davis monument contemplates that the coats of arms of the thirteen States and of Maryland shall be put in these fourteen spaces. This is the form and the idea of the design, which has been adopted by the Board of Directors of the Jefferson Davis Monument Association and approved by the late meeting of the Daughters of the Confederacy. Most well-informed people think that it would be unwise to change this design, whether viewed from a historical or any other point of view. However, there can be no doubt that the Maryland committee will receive kind and considerate attention if they come before the Monument Association to present their views.

The Washington Post says the problem before the Democratic party to-day is not how to carry New York or New Jersey, or what to do to make the South more solid, but how to break into the Mississippi Valley and stamped Illinois or Indiana, or both. Republican leaders appreciate the danger of such a movement, it says, and they have selected Chicago for their convention and have even forged, with the bait of political office, upon the Democratic ranks in Illinois. In order to strengthen their prospects in that State, which, normally Republican, is torn by local party dissensions, dissatisfied with national party management, and ripe for insurgency, "Indiana, too, the Post thinks, offers promising encouragement for Democratic work, and every argument of party expediency is in favor of holding the convention in some city in the Mississippi Valley country."

Hence our contemporary is opposed to holding the National Democratic Convention in New York.

According to the Baltimore Herald the Democratic party leaders in Maryland have practically determined upon their course in reference to the United States senatorship. "It seems there is no longer any doubt as to the candidate on whom they will unite." Their choice is Governor John Walter Smith. There seems to be a concentration of forces against Mr. Isadore Rayner, and the Herald says it is no longer Rayner against the field, but the field against Smith. Meanwhile Mr. Rayner is making a very active canvass in the State, urging the people to "instruct" their representatives in the Legislature to vote for him for the senatorship.

In Chicago such a horrid condition exists at this time that many people are afraid to undertake to bury their dead lest the funeral party should be attacked by the striking livery drivers. In the vaults of several funeral directors lie the remains of persons about whose death the utmost secrecy is observed, and whose funerals will be postponed until after the settlement of the strike. In some other cases arrangements for night funerals and private burials have been made. On Saturday last several funeral parties, in which non-union drivers were employed, were attacked; hence the remarkable expedient referred to.

The wife of General Leonard Wood was to have sailed from New York for the Philippines on Saturday, but she gave up the trip at the last moment almost. This indicates her belief, it is agreed, that the General will be summoned to Washington to testify in his case before final action is taken by the Senate. On the other hand, it is said Mrs. Wood preferred to be in this country, rather than on shipboard, whilst the case of her husband is under review in the Senate.

Mr. Frederick R. Coudert, the distinguished lawyer who died suddenly in Washington on Sunday, was of French parentage, and was seventy-one years

old. He was born in New York and began to earn his living as a newspaper worker, meantime studying law. He had once been offered the appointment as a member of the United States Supreme Court, but declined it. He had more than a national reputation, and had served this country on several occasions on international tribunals.

The holly, in the neighborhood of large cities especially, seems doomed to destruction at the present rate. It is a tree of slow growth, and the demand for its leaves and berries is very great. At best it is bound to suffer in the Christmas season, but the recklessness with which the trees are cut adds to the probability that before many decades have passed there will be few left. If the trees must be cut, let it be done in a careful manner, and so as not to destroy them utterly.

The story coming from Cleveland, Ohio, of a machinist shooting his wife, three children and himself only shows what madness enters into some human brains. The man is said to have been despondent because of his poverty and the near approach of Christmas. But there were evidences at his home of his having played pool-room games and lost heavily. All the probabilities go to show that he brought his troubles upon himself, then brooded over them until his mind was unstrung, when, to make bad worse, he proceeded to commit wholesale murder.

The Tidewater section is happy enough over the Baylor survey business, but it needs to get a hump on itself if it does not want the oysters to be ashamed of the Ter-Centenary outcome.

As we before remarked, the snow storm seems to be fixing to come with Santa Claus, which will be kinder crowding the small boy with happiness.

Mr. Hanna having fully decided that he does not want a little old presidency, can proceed to enjoy Santa Claus in the good, old-fashioned way.

The President would rather have Panama than the presidency, so he says, and anybody who chooses to can believe all that he says.

Columbia's bluff would be all right if she had something to back her judgment, for there must be some judgment even in a bluff.

The members of the Legislature could have a right good time in Richmond during the holidays, with the assistance of Santa Claus.

Norfolk will have to do a considerable lot of hustling during the holidays if it does not want to record a Jimfown bust.

The old Virginia esnogg will have a say, but somehow its voice is not as strenuous as it used to be.

The man who gets a bale of cotton in his stocking this Christmas will be strictly in it.

Never mind about that good lady's age; the question now is, How old is Santa Claus?

The Jimfown Expo. seems to be on the ragged edge of the subscription limit.

Only three more days. Count 'em.

With a Comment or Two.

Danville will probably put in a bid for the next National Prohibition convention. —Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Come to think of it, we believe Danville is entitled to it. If we don't deserve it, we possess the merit of having tried and we are still trying. —Danville Register.

It is reported that the cotton planters in a certain district of Mississippi have agreed to hold their crops until the price of cotton goes up to 14 cents. Only a few years ago the planters were pleading for 10 cents, which they thought would be a fair price for their product. —Lynchburg Advance.

Which proves that all men are, in one way or another, poker players, and never satisfied with the size of the Jack pot.

The esteemed Richmond Times-Dispatch is all discussing the "right of secession."

"If secession is right, secession has always been and still remains solely a question of might—the right doesn't count." —Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

"True, even if it's borrowed might."

A Suggestion.

Sir,—In view of the troubles in the Norfolk primary, I recommend that the Legislature take action by passing a bill to this effect: That all ballots be numbered, which would be fair to all parties, both voters and candidates. It would save trouble and time, and bring about better feelings. Unity is what we need, and in order to have it all parties should have an equal show.

GEORGE F. MOORE.

Stafford Co. Va.

Mrs. S. Gordon Cunningham, wife of the delegate from Elizabeth City and Accomack, was a visitor in the Senate chamber yesterday, accompanied by Mr. Cunningham.

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We have done all we could to let you know the advantages in dealing at this store; the low prices, the liberal credit system, the courteous treatment, etc., that thousands have enjoyed and are enjoying to-day. If you are not one of the thousands, you are not taking advantage of your best opportunities.

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Half Hour With Virginia Editors.

Here is a prediction by the Fredericksburg Star: The time is not far distant when all the Southern States will adopt a new law similar to those now contained in the Virginia Constitution, and this will be done in spite of all the abuse and advice from outside sources. When this is done and the clamorous subsidies the negro problem will be solved.

The Roanoke Times is highly pleased with the Halsey vagrant law. It says: Able-bodied non-producers who depend upon others for support, constitute a tax upon a community for which no reason in good morals exists, and any law that will drive them to work or cause them to leave the State ought to be welcomed and will be welcomed as a long step in the right direction.

The Danville Register says: The statement that dairy farming increases grain production, while it improves every corner of the farm, is a fact worth considering. The improvement of the farm is only an incident, but a matter of too much practical importance to be ignored.

The West Point News sadly remarks: Once upon a time the maiden who was caught under the mistletoe at the Christmas time was kissed, and that custom obtained now the mistletoe would soon be depleted.

North Carolina Sentiment.

Here is some sound doctrine from the Raleigh Post:

"The Cuban treaty has been promptly proclaimed and is now the law. Our North Carolina manufacturers and merchants should hasten to get in on the ground floor and reap the benefit of that 40 per cent. reduction in Cuban tariff duties."

The Wilmington Star says:

Judging from the intinabulations of the editorial bells, we can say that the press of North Carolina has rung loud and clear on the right of free speech. This might have been expected, as the press of North Carolina has been so long and so loudly for the tree and unlimited."

The Raleigh News-Observer makes this observation:

"A few years ago the 'Lily Whites' in Louisiana numbered over twenty thousand. The news now comes that they have almost all returned to the Democratic party. The hope that some people entertain of a respectable Republican party in the South is 'an iridescent dream.'"

Summing up, the Greensboro Telegram says:

"Now that it is all over, we think that it is safe to say that it is pretty well established that there have been several greater men in the South in the last one hundred years than Booker T. Washington, and that the country is in no danger of a sudden and horrible end because of an unmanly press."

Personal and General.

Dr. Joseph Krauskopf, of Philadelphia, has been touring the South in the interest of the Hebrew Union College. He was given at most cordial reception, particularly in New Orleans.

A strange coincidence is the appointment by Postmaster-General Payne, of a namesake, Henry C. Payne, to a position in the Zion City, Ill., postoffice. The latter is not a relative of the Postmaster-General and is a Dowieite.

Wu Ting Fang, formerly Chinese minister to this country, has been appointed vice-president of the newly created Department of Commerce in his home government. It will be his province especially to look after the foreign commerce of China.

Edwin F. Jones, former Lieutenant-Governor of New York State, but best known to fame as "Jones, He Pays the Freight," has become a novelist. His novel, "Richard Baxter," compares favorably with many of the novels of rural American life.

Alfred Tenyson Dickens, the oldest surviving son of Charles Dickens, the novelist, has strongly protested against published reports of his father's ill feeling towards Thackeray and says that many a time he has heard him speak in the most glowing terms of Thackeray's wonderful versatility.

A Few Foreign Facts.

Panama ranked fifth in population and seventh in area among the States of the Colombian republic.

Girls dressed in gauzy red, black and white uniforms are selling butter and cheese in the streets of Berlin for a new company.

Seamen on native river craft in China get \$8 a month, and eat Chinese food, while \$1 they furnish their own food.

About four hundred members of the Society of Suckers and Blunters in London and Manchester are either locked out or on strike on the question of a fixed rate of wages.

In their care for the well being of the school children of the Grand Duchy of Saxe-Weimar, the educational authorities, save the Hospital, have placed in each school a broad sheet giving 11 rules for the preservation of health. The last one, "We must not read or write by twilight," is typical of the rest.

Virginia Lands.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—The real estate men (fresh and vigorous speakers) of your account of their meeting is exceedingly interesting. Mr. Bibb, as the colored people say, "crowned the meeting" by his high moral standard. His theory, put in practice, would bring millions to our State. The man who, soon after the war, undertook to

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Names of winners published

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